



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 8

August 2003

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Down Slightly in July

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July slipped 0.1 of a percentage point over the month to 5.6 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders edged down by 800 to 32,200 in July. A year ago July, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level stood at 27,500. The national unemployment rate fell 0.2 of a percentage point from a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in June to 6.2 percent in July. On a positive note, Rhode Island's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for two straight years.

"Rhode Island's economy continues to fare better than the nation as our unemployment rate remained below the national average for the twenty-fourth month in a row, and Rhode Island businesses reported job gains over the month," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry. "This month's employment figures give us reason to be optimistic about improved labor market conditions in the coming months."

Rhode Island Job Highlights

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of payroll jobs in July 2003 was 483,100, up 3,200 from the June level, and up 4,200 from last July. Job gains in Professional & Business Services (+1,400), Government (+800), Other Services (+400), and Construction (+300) contributed to the 3,200 gain, the largest month-to-month gain reported in 2003. (Continued on Page 4)

Now Available on the Web! 2000 - 2010 Projections

Where is Rhode Island's economy headed? Which jobs are going to be in demand in the future? Which occupations are growing? Which occupations are declining? What types of skills will I need to compete and succeed in tomorrow's economy?

Find out by visiting the Labor Market Information (LMI) web site and viewing the just released 2000 - 2010 Projections. These projections provide valuable information on where future job growth is expected and the likely occupational composition of the work force. The ten-year occupational projections are widely used in career guidance, education planning and training programs, and in studying long-range employment trends.

Visit the projections web site at:

www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj.htm

Or visit the Labor Market Information home page www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi, select Data Center and click on Industry and Occupational Projections. Data can be downloaded into excel or pdf files.

Minimum Wage Increase

Effective January 1, 2004, the Rhode Island minimum wage will increase from \$6.15 to \$6.75 per hour.

We Value Your Input!

What topics would you like to see covered on the label page? What other data would you like to see included in the Employment Bulletin?

Please email your comments, questions and suggestions regarding the Employment Bulletin to lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.
Thank you!

The Minimum Wage in New England

Connecticut	\$7.10 *
Massachusetts	\$6.75
Rhode Island	\$6.75 *
Vermont	\$6.75 *
Maine	\$6.25
New Hampshire	\$5.15
Federal Minimum Wage	\$5.15

*Effective January 1, 2004

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

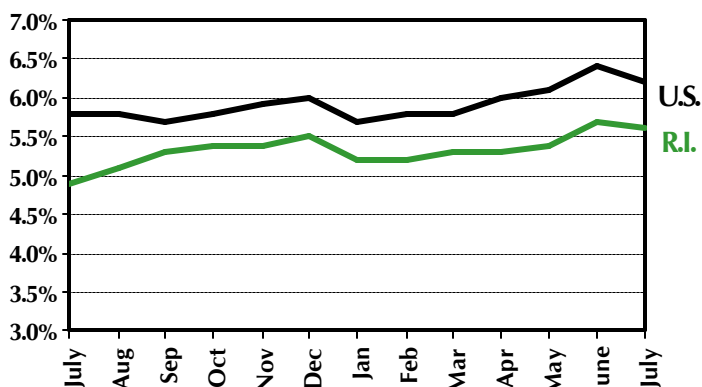
(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02
Civilian Labor Force	573.6	574.4	557.6	581.0	576.6	564.9
Resident Employment	541.4	541.4	530.1	549.0	545.2	537.6
Unemployment	32.2	33.0	27.5	32.0	31.5	27.3
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.7%	4.9%	5.5%	5.5%	4.8%

United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02
Civilian Labor Force	146,540	147,096	144,786	147,822	148,117	146,189
Resident Employment	137,478	137,738	136,343	138,503	138,468	137,495
Unemployment	9,062	9,358	8,443	9,319	9,649	8,693
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.4%	5.8%	6.3%	6.5%	5.9%



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jul 03	Jul 02**
Barrington	3.0	3.2
Bristol	4.3	3.7
Burrillville	6.1	5.1
Central Falls	9.5	7.5
Charlestown	5.5	6.2
Coventry	5.2	5.3
Cranston	5.5	4.7
Cumberland	5.4	4.6
East Greenwich	4.9	4.3
East Providence	5.3	5.2
Exeter	4.0	4.3
Foster	5.7	4.3
Glocester	4.1	3.3
Hopkinton	4.6	2.7
Jamestown	2.8	3.8
Johnston	6.0	5.2
Lincoln	5.6	4.5
Little Compton	3.0	3.0
Middletown	3.2	3.5
Narragansett	2.4	2.2
New Shoreham	0.8	1.1
Newport	3.9	3.0
North Kingstown	3.5	4.0
North Providence	5.9	4.8
North Smithfield	4.7	3.3
Pawtucket	7.1	6.0
Portsmouth	3.1	3.1
Providence	7.7	6.8
Richmond	3.0	3.1
Scituate	6.7	4.8
Smithfield	5.1	4.8
South Kingstown	3.7	3.7
Tiverton	5.4	4.9
Warren	4.7	4.2
Warwick	4.8	4.3
West Greenwich	5.7	5.6
West Warwick	5.9	5.0
Westerly	3.7	2.5
Woonsocket	7.3	5.8
State of R.I.	5.5	4.8

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul	Jun	Jul	% Change		Year to Date		
	2003	2003	2002	Jun 03	Jul 02	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	7,383	8,524	9,133	-13.4%	-19.2%	56,402	53,349	5.7%
Number of Payments	58,316	55,040	67,842	6.0%	-14.0%	449,960	454,060	-0.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.6	\$16.3	\$19.1	1.7%	-13.4%	\$134.8	\$134.4	0.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,504	1,675	1,753	-10.2%	-14.2%	11,244	11,151	0.8%

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or e-mail us at lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.

*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island*

July 2003

Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	July 2003	June 2003	July 2002	June 2003	July 2002
Total Nonfarm	478.8	485.2	474.8	-6,400	4,000
Goods Producing	78.5	81.8	79.3	-3,300	-800
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.2	0.3	100	0
Construction	21.9	21.2	20.3	700	1,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.7	13.2	13.1	500	600
Manufacturing	56.3	60.4	58.7	-4,100	-2,400
Durable Goods	36.6	38.9	38.5	-2,300	-1,900
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.3	8.4	8.2	-1,100	-900
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.2	5.3	-200	-300
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.7	2.9	2.7	-200	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.6	3.8	3.8	-200	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.1	11.6	11.2	-500	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	8.1	8.8	7.9	-700	200
Non-Durable Goods	19.7	21.5	20.2	-1,800	-500
Chemical Manufacturing	3.7	3.8	3.5	-100	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.0	3.3	3.0	-300	0
Service Providing	400.3	403.4	395.5	-3,100	4,800
Wholesale Trade	17.0	17.0	16.8	0	200
Retail Trade	53.9	53.8	52.6	100	1,300
Grocery Stores	6.3	6.3	6.4	0	-100
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.7	5.7	5.6	0	100
General Merchandise Stores	10.6	10.8	11.0	-200	-400
Department Stores	4.5	4.6	4.9	-100	-400
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.2	6.2	6.1	0	100
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.2	11.7	10.9	-500	300
Transportation & Warehousing	10.1	10.5	9.7	-400	400
Information	11.3	11.2	11.3	100	0
Publishing	3.5	3.4	3.4	100	100
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.3	33.1	32.7	200	600
Finance & Insurance	27.3	27.1	26.7	200	600
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.2	12.2	12.0	0	200
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	11.2	11.1	10.9	100	300
Professional & Technical Services	18.6	18.5	18.9	100	-300
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.9	6.8	6.5	100	400
Administrative & Waste Services	23.4	23.4	23.8	0	-400
Educational Services	15.6	15.5	14.9	100	700
Colleges & Universities	9.6	9.6	9.7	0	-100
Health Care & Social Assistance	71.0	70.9	68.5	100	2,500
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.9	20.9	19.7	0	1,200
Hospitals	22.6	22.3	22.1	300	500
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.7	17.7	17.4	0	300
Social Assistance	9.8	10.0	9.3	-200	500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.4	9.2	9.1	200	300
Accommodation & Food Services	42.7	42.7	44.7	0	-2,000
Accommodation	4.8	4.6	5.2	200	-400
Food Services & Drinking Places	37.9	38.1	39.5	-200	-1,600
Other Services	23.6	23.7	22.3	-100	1,300
Government	62.4	65.9	62.5	-3,500	-100
Federal Government	10.6	10.3	10.1	300	500
State Government	17.2	18.0	17.6	-800	-400
Local Government	34.6	37.6	34.8	-3,000	-200
Local Education	20.2	24.2	20.5	-4,000	-300
Local Non-Ed	14.4	13.4	14.3	1,000	100

*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm.

Some subcategories are not additive.

Over-the-Year Change in Nonfarm Employment (in thousands)

State	Employment		Numeric Change	Percent Change
	July 03	July 02		
Hawaii	565.3	550.9	14.4	2.6%
New Mexico	778.1	764.8	13.3	1.7%
Nevada	1,066.7	1,048.8	17.9	1.7%
Vermont	298.8	293.9	4.9	1.7%
Georgia	3,930.4	3,878.6	51.8	1.3%
Florida	7,190.4	7,106.0	84.4	1.2%
Virginia	3,517.6	3,486.2	31.4	0.9%
New Jersey	4,035.7	3,999.8	35.9	0.9%
Rhode Island	478.8	474.8	4.0	0.8%
Alaska	319.5	317.0	2.5	0.8%
Maryland	2,468.9	2,451.0	17.9	0.7%
Wyoming	256.2	254.6	1.6	0.6%
Arizona	2,234.8	2,221.4	13.4	0.6%
Texas	9,377.2	9,351.8	25.4	0.3%
Wisconsin	2,800.5	2,795.7	4.8	0.2%
Montana	400.7	400.1	0.6	0.1%
North Dakota	325.0	324.6	0.4	0.1%
Washington	2,665.3	2,663.7	1.6	0.1%
North Carolina	3,787.3	3,786.7	0.6	0.0%
Tennessee	2,662.0	2,662.6	-0.6	0.0%
California	14,369.6	14,373.6	-4.0	0.0%
South Dakota	382.7	382.9	-0.2	-0.1%
Oklahoma	1,437.6	1,438.6	-1.0	-0.1%
Louisiana	1,884.8	1,886.7	-1.9	-0.1%
Arkansas	1,137.0	1,138.2	-1.2	-0.1%
Nebraska	899.9	901.6	-1.7	-0.2%
Idaho	573.0	574.2	-1.2	-0.2%
Delaware	414.9	415.9	-1.0	-0.2%
Missouri	2,617.1	2,625.5	-8.4	-0.3%
District of Columbia	670.8	673.2	-2.4	-0.4%
Iowa	1,432.0	1,437.2	-5.2	-0.4%
New York	8,396.5	8,429.6	-33.1	-0.4%
West Virginia	730.6	733.6	-3.0	-0.4%
Utah	1,059.4	1,063.8	-4.4	-0.4%
Pennsylvania	5,602.6	5,627.3	-24.7	-0.4%
Maine	614.2	617.2	-3.0	-0.5%
New Hampshire	617.0	620.2	-3.2	-0.5%
Kansas	1,317.5	1,324.8	-7.3	-0.6%
Mississippi	1,121.0	1,129.9	-8.9	-0.8%
Illinois	5,864.1	5,911.7	-47.6	-0.8%
Kentucky	1,751.8	1,767.3	-15.5	-0.9%
Alabama	1,860.8	1,877.6	-16.8	-0.9%
Minnesota	2,637.0	2,661.2	-24.2	-0.9%
Colorado	2,170.3	2,191.9	-21.6	-1.0%
Oregon	1,558.8	1,574.6	-15.8	-1.0%
Ohio	5,383.8	5,442.1	-58.3	-1.1%
South Carolina	1,770.2	1,790.8	-20.6	-1.2%
Michigan	4,381.6	4,434.9	-53.3	-1.2%
Connecticut	1,639.3	1,659.5	-20.2	-1.2%
Massachusetts	3,202.7	3,244.0	-41.3	-1.3%
Indiana	2,815.2	2,876.1	-60.9	-2.1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	183.9	183.7	180.1	2.1%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Down Slightly in July

(Continued from Page 1)

Our unadjusted estimates show the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses stood at 478,800 in July 2003, up 4,000 from the 474,800 jobs reported last year. Employment gains in Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,500), Construction (+1,600), Other Services (+1,300) and Retail Trade (+1,300), overshadowed losses in Manufacturing (-2,400) and Accommodation & Food Services (-2,000).

The unadjusted employment estimates decreased by 6,400 over the month, the smallest June-to-July loss reported in more than ten years. Less than average seasonal losses in Manufacturing (-4,100) and Government (-3,500) were largely responsible for the smaller than expected monthly decline.

The \$12.87 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers in July 2003 represents a yearly gain of seventeen cents per hour and an over-the-month gain of one cent per hour. In July 2003, Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.7 hours per week, down eight-tenths of an hour from June. The July 2003 work week was an hour and two-tenths longer than the previous July.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted July 2003

	Employment						Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02	Jun 03	Jul 02		Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02	Jul 03	Jun 03	Jul 02
Manufacturing	56.3	60.4	58.7	-4100	-2400		38.7	39.5	37.5	12.87	12.86	12.70
Durable Goods	36.6	38.9	38.5	-2300	-1900		37.9	38.1	37.2	12.88	12.85	12.66
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.3	8.4	8.2	-1100	-900		38.3	38.8	38.4	11.48	11.47	11.35
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.2	5.3	-200	-300		37.7	37.5	42.7	13.63	13.62	13.82
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.7	2.9	2.7	-200	0		37.3	37.2	39.6	9.50	9.49	9.61
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.6	3.8	3.8	-200	-200		40.4	41.2	41.6	15.41	15.46	15.42
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.1	11.6	11.2	-500	-100		36.4	36.8	36.8	10.43	10.46	10.41
Jewelry and Silverware	8.1	8.8	7.9	-700	200		37.6	36.6	36.6	9.89	9.86	9.72
Non-Durable Goods	19.7	21.5	20.2	-1800	-500		40.1	42.0	37.9	12.85	12.88	12.76
Chemical Manufacturing	3.7	3.8	3.5	-100	200		40.9	41.2	37.4	15.58	15.59	15.46
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.0	3.3	3.0	-300	0		34.3	40.6	39.4	14.64	14.62	14.41